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Commission for Women

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1976

### 1976 Women's Center Proposal Documents

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Judy Kuipers, Chairperson  
Commission on Women

FROM: Maggie Carini  
Asst. Dir., Student Activities

DATE: January 22, 1976

The proposal for a Women's Center in the Student Activities Office was developed in response to the informal announcement that the Office of Special Services would be phased out by FY'77. Our response was that there is still a most pressing need for an office and staff identified specifically as a resource area for UTK women. After a careful review of the situation with key persons on the Student Activities staff and other women leaders on campus, Mary Ellen Mitchell, Cathy Farmer and I submitted to Dr. Aldmon a proposal to develop a Women's Center as a unit of the Student Activities Office. It was our feeling that, as the University department charged with the primary responsibility for campus programming, the Student Activities Office has the staff, the budget, the facilities, and the access and support to best perform the program function for women.

Many services and programs are needed for women on this campus. Through this Women's Center, we feel that we could undertake and meet three of the most pressing:

- a. An information exchange service on all types of women's activities occurring throughout the campus,
- b. A site for the collection of media resources about women, and
- c. A base for initiating programs for women.

Programs initiated by this unit should focus on the educational development of the campus community with regard to women's issues. Leadership skills, national and regional trends, appreciation of the arts and artists, social concerns, and historical perspectives are some of the broad categories in which programs are needed. Programs that might be forwarded by the unit include:

- An on-going campus "consciousness-raising" via programs from the female perspective to complement all major programming efforts. Using recent programs as examples - a speaker or exhibit on women's roles in the Middle East conflict, a biographical release on Golda Meir during the Fall Quarter Issues series on the Middle East, or a feminist rebuttal to author Frederick Storaska's presentation on rape might have been developed



- The development of women faculty and staff as role models by publicly recognizing their accomplishments, scheduling programs to focus on their areas of expertise or special interest, and including them in program planning efforts.
- Sponsoring, on a regular basis, leadership development opportunities for women; promoting existing courses and workshops; offering programs on special skills and growth areas such as public speaking, values clarification and life-planning.
- Seeking Federal funding for special program areas such as those outlined in the Women's Equity Education Act which will support co-curricular programs produced by the joint efforts of an academic department and a support service area.
- The implementation of a process for forwarding supplemental information in curricular areas to specific departments or faculty members; sharing resource materials; bringing concerned students and faculty together for discussion, etc.

Other recommendations we have included are:

1. To adequately develop such a program, the unit should be established with a minimum of one professional staff person and one clerical assistant.
2. The unit should be housed in a high traffic area such as the University Center possibly as part of the proposed Activities Center.
3. The role and scope of the unit should be communicated widely to all Student Affairs and other university departments and student organizations, emphasizing the availability of the center and its staff as a resource in their work with women's programs.
4. The Center should be developed as a unit which would complement and supplement the work of the Student Activities program staff.
5. The professional staff person assigned to the Center should be trained in all aspects of programming, including technical production, promotion, contract negotiation, and student leadership development. This person should also be well versed on sex role stereo-typing and sex discrimination.
6. The most immediate task of the Center should be the strengthening of the lines of communication between and among women on campus. Comprehensive and effective means of information exchange on all campus programs, services, activities, resources, and interest areas available for women should be developed and publicized.



# student activities

the university of tennessee student services building suite 413 circle park drive knoxville, tennessee 37916

March 10, 1976

Dr. Judith Kuipers  
Chairperson, Commission for Women  
1218 White Avenue  
Knoxville, TN. 37916

Dear Judy:

Thanks for the opportunity to appear before the Commission and speak to our proposal for a Women's Center. I look forward to receiving any and all thoughts and recommendations that the Commission may wish to offer.

Cathy Farmer informs me that the Commission may wish to submit more than one person for membership on the search committee. Fine --- given the general disdain for committee assignments that the Spring Quarter usually brings I am delighted that more than one hearty soul would be willing to serve. Just send me names and they will be included. You may also wish to think about those persons that the Commission would like included in the interview schedule. Again, just send me your recommendations and we'll work them in --- time being the only limiting factor.

I have asked Maggie Carini to prepare a draft of the job description for inspection by Commission members. Your early reaction here would insure proper incorporation of specific duties in the final draft. Maggie will provide you with copies for Commission members by Friday.

We would also like to receive input from Commission members on specific resources that we should procure for the Women's Center. Maggie presently is compiling a priority item want list --- please communicate with her directly if you wish to assist.

Again, thanks for the opportunity to talk with the Commission and please let me hear from you.

Sincerely,



Philip A. Scheurer  
Director, Student Activities

PAS:th

cc: Maggie Carini

MEMORANDUM

HOME MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

TO: Dr. H. Aldmon and P. A. Scheurer  
FROM: Dr. Judith L. Auipord, Chairperson  
RE: Women's Center  
DATE: March 15, 1976

The Commission for Women, following intense discussion and consideration of numerous alternatives related to the proposed Women's Center, has reached the decision to endorse and support this proposal. We are aware of many advantages inherent in the proposed Women's Center: the central location, becoming part of an on-going organization, and the fact that the implementation of the proposal seems to be feasible within the near future. We would, however, appreciate the qualification of our support to reflect several of our concerns:

- 1) Should the needs of women on campus become greater than the services provided by the proposed Women's Center, we recognize that growth either in expansion within the Student Center or into another location will be necessary.
- 2) Should the necessity for growth into another location arise, we would anticipate housing in an appropriate facility. A location mentioned by Dr. Aldmon was Alumni Hall.
- 3) The success of the proposed Women's Center depends greatly on the person chosen as the program advisor. In evidence of our concern that this person be well qualified, we are submitting four names of Commission members to serve on the Search Committee for selection of the program advisor:

Dr. Nancy Lay, Assoc. Prof., School of Health, PE & Rec.  
Ms. Susan Gordon, Assistant Director, Non-Credit Workshops  
Ms. Barbara Baldwin, Accounting Clerk, Business Admin.  
Ms. Mary Peterson, Student (3-1A)

In summary, we see the proposed Women's Center as a good beginning with definite positive potential for providing women at UTK with many services and opportunities. In addition, there will be opportunities for women to realize their potential for "en masse" contribution to the broader university. With the right program advisor and your enthusiastic leadership, the center should entail many mutual rewards.

JLK:mr  
3/15/76

cc: Dr. Jack Reese  
Dr. L. Ebersole  
Commission Members  
Kristin Oen/WCC

*Meeting place*



## THE WOMEN'S CENTER

The Women's Center is the coordinating unit for women's programs on the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, campus. As a unit of the Student Activities Office, the Center functions as a resource for all University departments and organizations in the areas of women's programs and activities. The Center is located in Room 301, The University Center, 974-4160.

Three areas have been identified as the priority objectives for the Women's Center:

1. The development of a base for the planning, implementation, and evaluation of programs for women. Programs initiated by the Women's Center focus on the educational development of the campus community with regard to women's needs and issues. Leadership skills, national and regional trends, appreciation of the arts and artists, social concerns, and historical perspectives are some of the broad categories in which programs are implemented. The broad program responsibility is accomplished by the Women's Center staff in two ways. Major programs are planned and implemented by the Women's Coordinating Council, a student committee under the auspices of the Center and the staff advisor. Also many programs and services are undertaken within the existing structure of the Student Activities Office where a major responsibility of the Women's Center advisor is to stimulate a more pronounced consciousness for women's concerns and women as resources throughout the SAO staff. To these ends, the staff advisor is developing and maintaining an on-going file of program ideas, including artists, performers, and speakers from all fields.
2. The expansion and circulation of the collection of media resources about women. Current literature newsletters, magazines, video tapes and films are being collected and organized for the Center. Many of these media resources are currently available for use in the center. Other types of resources are offered in the Center, such as list of campus, community, and regional resource persons and their speciality areas, and information from Women's Centers and Women's Studies programs from other schools and communities. The emphasis is on the collection of popular resources for wide circulation and the compilation of files and listings for program development.
3. The creation of a comprehensive information exchange service on all types of women's activities occurring throughout the campus. The publication and distribution of a campus newsletter and the availability of a bulletin board and a women's calendar in the center are our primary means of communicating these activities. The newsletter contains information on UTK course offerings of particular interest to women, services available for women on campus and in the community, news on women's organizations and programs, etc. Through an up-to-date compilation of the programs and services for women offered by other University departments and organizations, the Center maintains a campus and community referral service as well.

## THE WOMEN'S COORDINATING COUNCIL

An integral part of the Women's Center is the volunteer support advanced by the Women's Coordinating Council. The WCC is the campus organization charged with primary responsibility for the development and coordination of women's programs. Students members are trained in leadership development, program design and production promotional methods, budget development as well as expanding their awarenesses of the notional trends and current issues concerning women.